

THE BILL on Stony Creek Valley, HB 1843, would turn over a 16-mile section of that Upper Dauphin County wilderness area for management by the State Game Commission to restrict construction within its boundaries,

Last Friday, Pennsylvania Power and Light Co. and Metropolitan Edison Co. told Jones that they had dropped their plans to construct two pumped storage hydroelectric dams in the valley and would look for sites elsewhere. As a consequence of that decision, the utilities would return to the Commission 1,702 acres within the valley that had been under consideration as an energy generating site. The part of the valley

that would become part of the state's wild river system would cover 30,407 acres, including three tributaries flowing into Stony Creek: Rattling Run, Yellow Springs and Rausch Creek.

Piccola said that the bill should start moving on the House floor unless the opening of doe season forces a delay. He said that he does not anticipate any problems in having it clear the House.

Manmiller said that there might be some questions raised on the floor because Stony Creek is the first area in the state for which wild river status has been sought. He said there may be some concern because other possible sites — unlike Stony Creek Valley — include privately owned land.

Bill Beck, co-chairman of the Stony Creek Valley Coalition, present at the committee meeting, said he is pleased with the outcome and expects "virtually no opposition" to approval.